

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 121 into one of the following Groups:

- Group I: Claims 1-21 and 36-38 (drawn to compounds, compositions, and processes for preparing compounds of formula I);
- Group II: Claims 22-27 and 32 (drawn to methods of treating various diseases using compounds of formula I);
- Group III: Claims 28-32 (drawn to methods for inhibiting caspases using compounds of formula I); and
- Group IV: Claims 33 and claim 34 (drawn to methods for preserving cells using compounds of formula I); and
- Group V: Claim 35 (drawn to methods for treating cancer using compounds of formula I).

If applicants elect to restrict the application to Group II, the Examiner has further required applicants to elect a single disease state.

Applicants elect with traverse the claims of Group I for initial substantive examination.

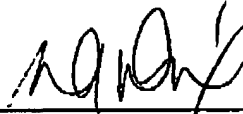
This election is made expressly without waiver of applicants' rights to file for and obtain claims directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application or other

applications claiming priority and benefit from this application under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

Applicants note the Examiner's comments regarding the possibility of rejoining the process claims with the elected product claims.

In view of the above, applicants request that the Examiner examine claims 1-21 and 36-38 (Group I) in this application. Applicants request favorable consideration and early allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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